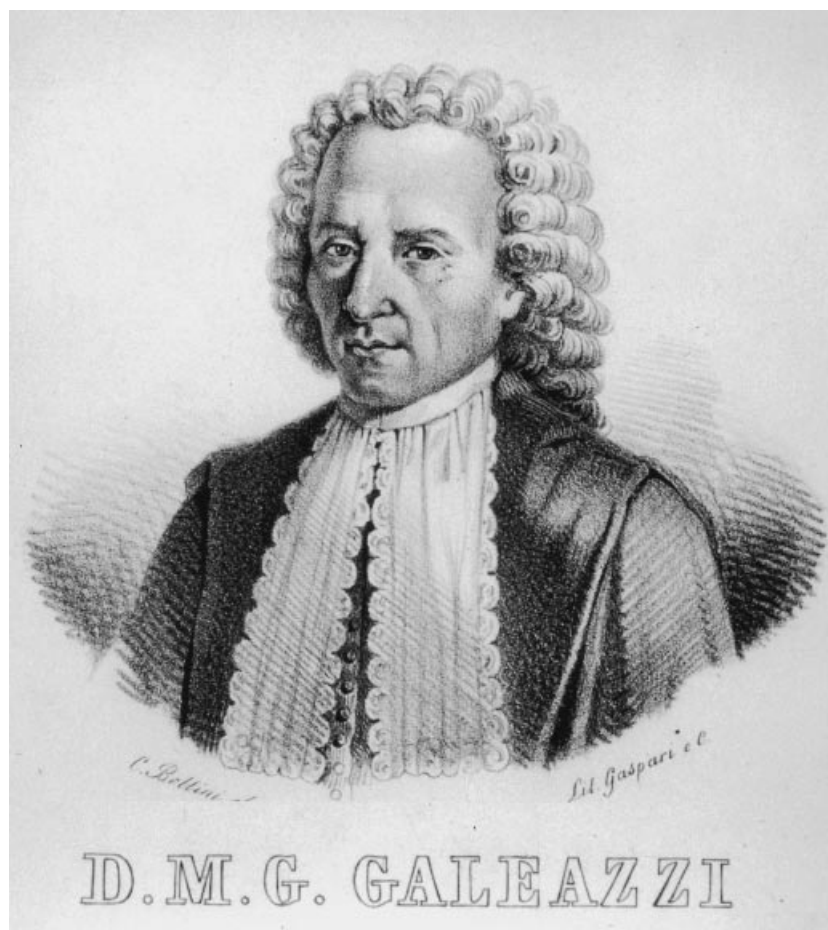


*The Iconographic Archives of European Nephrology*  
**Italy, 18th Century**

**The description of polycystic kidney by Domenico Gusmano Galeazzi**

G. B. Fogazzi

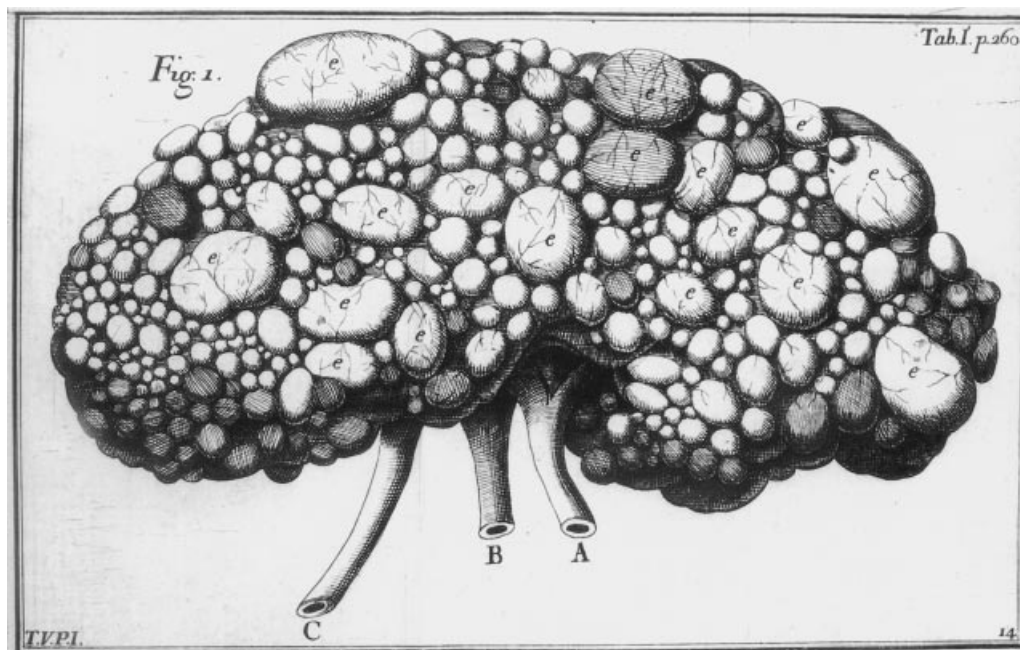
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Domenico Gusmano Galeazzi (1686–1775) was a distinguished anatomist who worked at the University of Bologna. Today he is remembered especially for his important discoveries in the gastrointestinal system [1,2]. He also had a successful medical practice, through which he came across three patients with abdominal symptoms that were thought to derive from renal stone disease in one case, a liver tumour in another, and an intestinal tumour in the third. However, post-mortem

examination revealed that in all patients the symptoms were due to enlarged kidneys, the structure of which was entirely subverted by numerous vesicles of different sizes. Galeazzi described this condition, also with the help of some beautiful plates, in 1757, and warned about the possible diagnostic pitfalls that it could create [3]. (Portrait from reference [2], Wellcome Institute Library, London. Plate showing the kidney from reference [3], Biblioteca Universitaria, Pavia).

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